

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 4-8 have been cancelled, and claims 11 and 16-18 have been withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected species, it being noted that claims 11 and 16-18 will be reintroduced and considered by the Examiner upon allowance of a generic claim.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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Listing of Claims:

C2 1. (Previously Amended) A vehicular part comprising:
a blank material formed from a sheet metal and having a bent portion; and
a backing plate joined with the blank material and having a bent portion corresponding in position to, and bent along a same bending line as, the bent portion of the blank material, the backing plate further having at least one aperture formed therein at the bent portion thereof and located on the bending line.

2. (Previously Amended) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein the vehicular part is an inner skin forming part of a hood of a vehicle body, and the blank material forms the inner skin.

3. (Previously Amended) The vehicular part according to claim 2, wherein the inner skin has opposite side edge portions extending in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle body, and the backing plate is disposed on each of the side edge

portions.

Claims 4-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Added) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein the aperture is designed so as to make a section modulus of the backing plate equal to a section modulus of the blank material.

10. (Previously Added) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein plural apertures are formed in the backing plate, and each of said apertures are located on the bending line.

11. (Previously Added - Withdrawn) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein plural apertures are formed in the backing plate, some of said plural apertures being located on the bending line while others of said plural apertures are spaced from the bending line.

12. (Previously Added) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein said at least one aperture has a circular shape.

13. (Previously Added) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein said at least one aperture has an oblong shape.

14. (Previously Added) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein said at least one aperture has an elongated rectangular shape.

15. (Previously Added) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein said at least one aperture comprises an irregularly profiled aperture.

16. (Previously Added - Withdrawn) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein plural apertures are formed in the backing plate, and said plural apertures are arranged in a zigzag pattern.

17. (Previously Added - Withdrawn) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein plural apertures are formed in the backing plate, and said plural apertures are arranged in parallel rows.

18. (Previously Added - Withdrawn) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein plural apertures are formed in the backing plate, and said plural apertures are arranged in a lattice pattern.
